



phoenix

SUN

PART TWO



BY OSAMU TEZUKA

Phoenix: Sun, Part 2
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STORY AND ART BY
OSAMU TEZUKA

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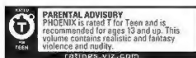
A message to our readership:

Some of the phrasing and expressions in the work you are about to read reflect the time and context in which it was originally created and thus might not be in accordance with present standards. The author had an unflinching dedication to conveying several themes through the art of manga, such as the importance of nature, love and peace; a warning against the idolization of science, and the preciousness of life. It is clear that at the root of his work there is a strong belief in the power of human love overall.

We believe that publishing a faithful translation is essential to accurately conveying the message within the work itself as intended by the author, as well as protecting its integrity as a part of Japan's cultural heritage and preserving it for future generations. We therefore appreciate your understanding as you enjoy this work of art.

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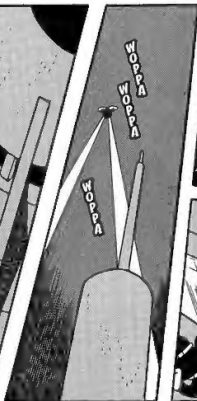
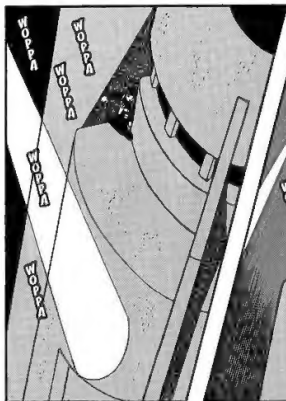
火の鳥

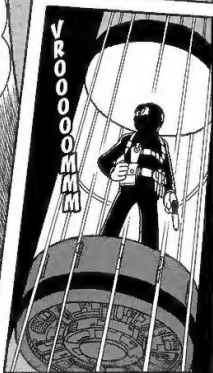
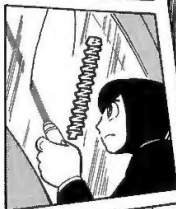
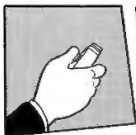
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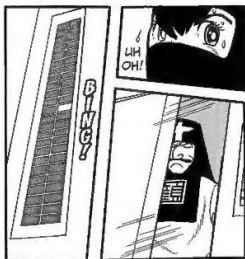
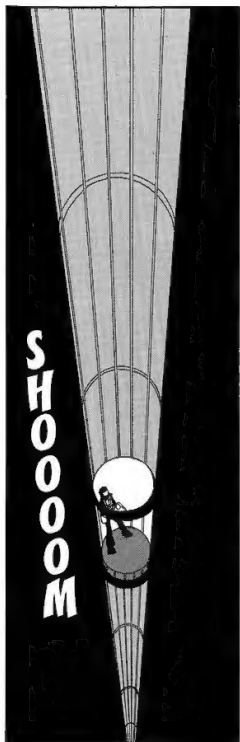
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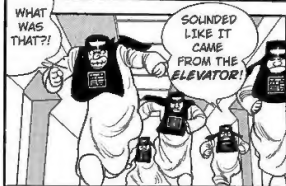
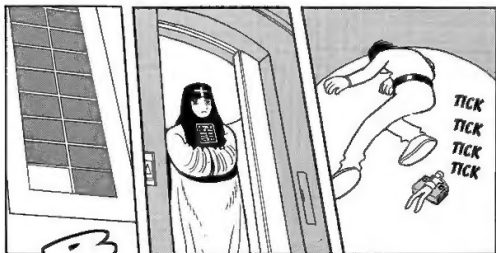
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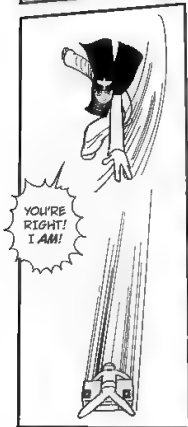


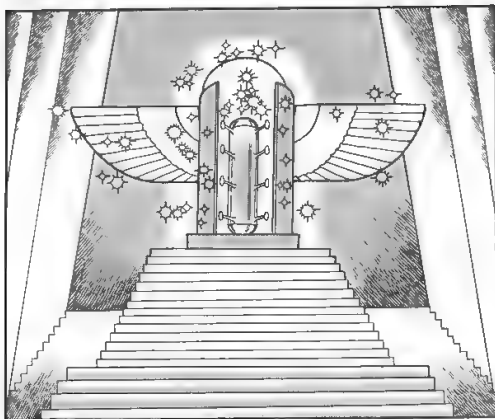
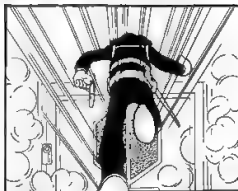


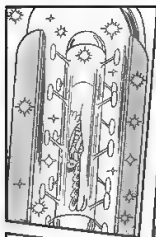












THERE IT IS!
THE FIRE BIRD!



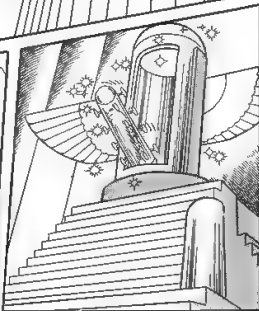
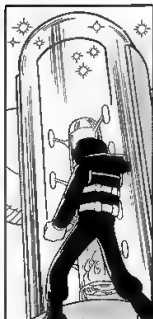
THE FOUNTAIN OF
ETERNAL LIFE IS
RIGHT HERE IN
FRONT OF ME...
I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!

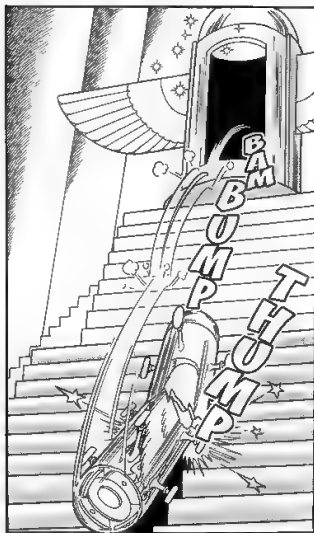


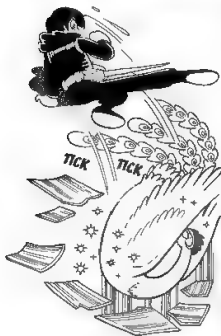
I MAY BE
A COLD-
BLOODED
ASSASSIN...



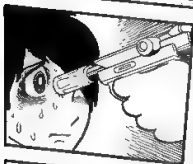
BUT THIS
GIVES ME
GOOSE
BUMPS...







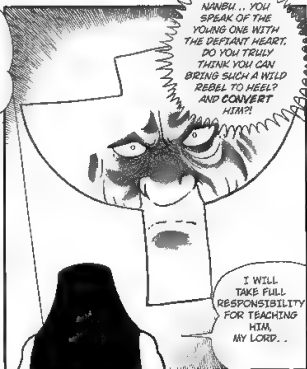
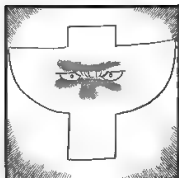




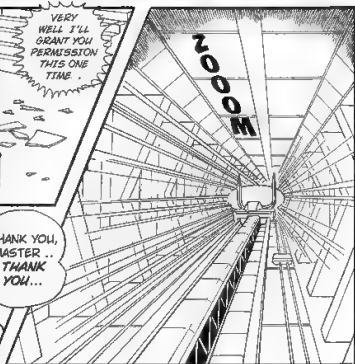


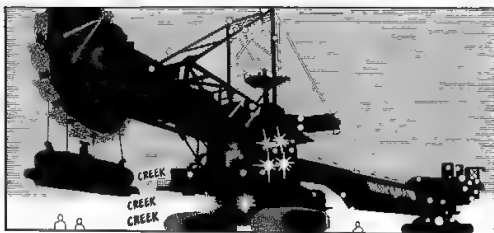
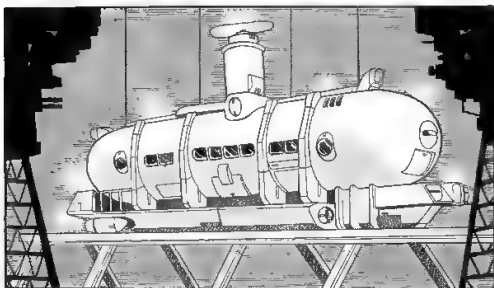


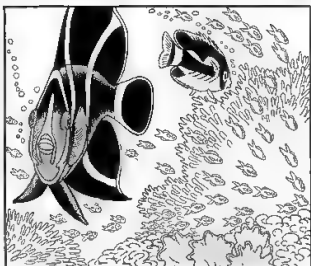
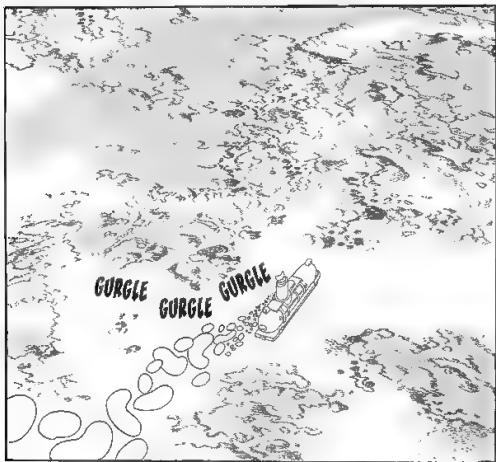
I BEG YOUR MERCY...
PLEASE LET THE
SHADOW SPY
LIVE AND BE
INDOCTRINATED IN
THE WAYS OF THE
CHURCH OF LIGHT.

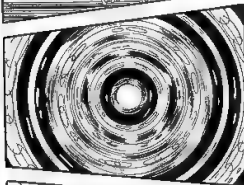
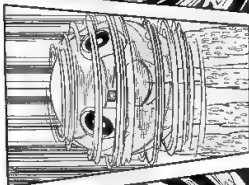
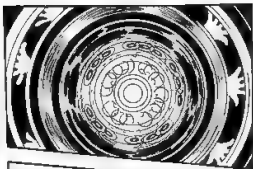
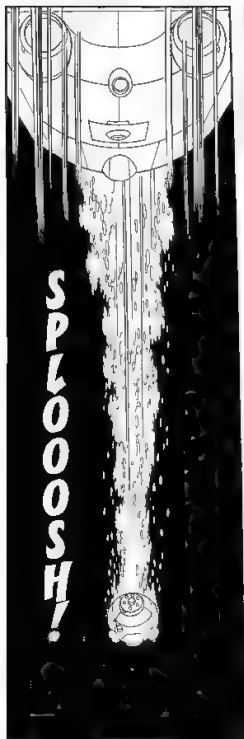


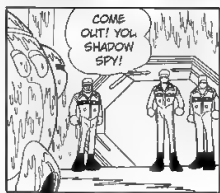
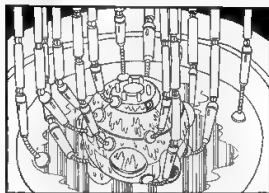
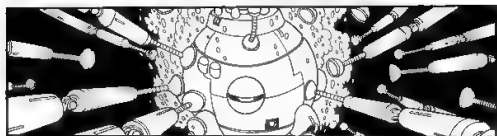
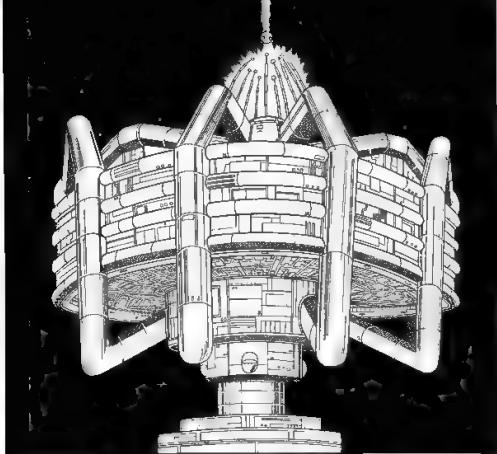
THANK YOU,
MASTER..
THANK
YOU...



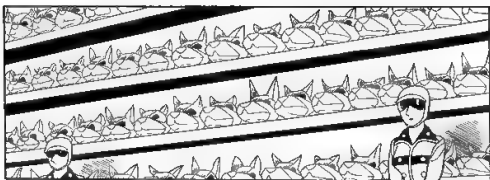












CHOOSE
ANY ONE
YOU LIKE.



I'M SUPPOSED TO
WEAR ONE OF THESE
MASKS? WHY? THEY
ALL LOOK LIKE
ANIMAL HEADS



THAT'S RIGHT
YOU'RE GOING
TO LEARN HOW
TO RETURN TO
THE PURE,
UNADULTERATED
MIND OF AN
ANIMAL HERE.

HAHHAH. IF YOU
THINK I'M GOING
TO TAKE PART
IN ANY
MASKED BALL,
FORGET IT!



HEY! LET
GO OF ME!
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?



DAMN! WHAT DO I
HAVE TO WEAR
THIS THING
FOR?!



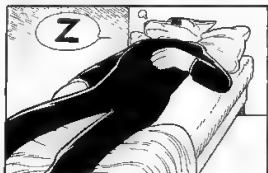
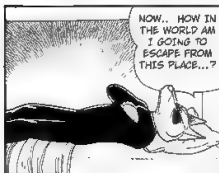
ARRGGH...

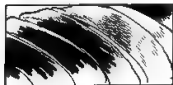


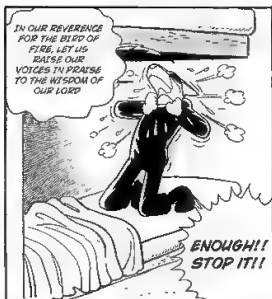
I CAN'T GET IT
OFF! I CAN'T
BREATHE...!
IT'S HEAVY...!
IT ITCHES...!

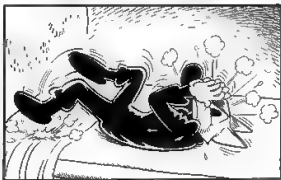
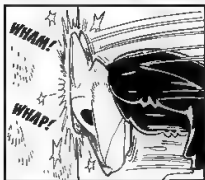


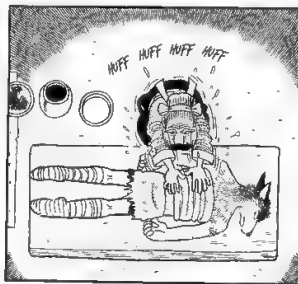
HERE ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, WE HARVEST ENDLESS AMOUNTS OF PLANKTON, AND WE PROCESS IT INTO FOOD. OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER HAS TAUGHT US THAT THIS WILL BE THE SALVATION OF MANKIND.

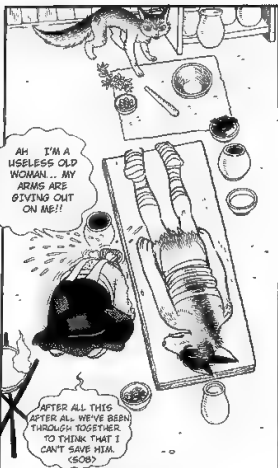


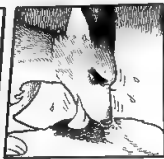
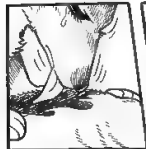
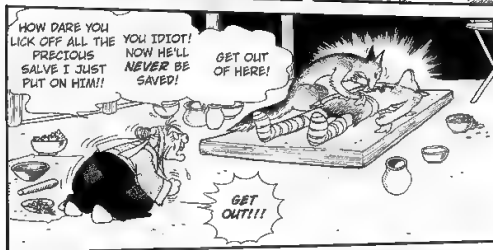


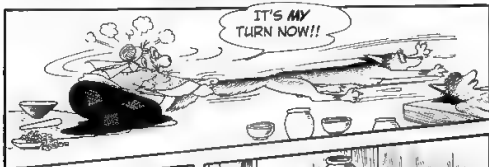














WELL,
LOOK AT
THAT.



I'D SAY
BY THE
LOOK IN
YOUR
EYES...

...THAT
THERE'S
SOME-
THING
GOING ON
HERE!



YOU'RE AN
ORDINARY,
DUMB
ANIMAL...

BUT
YOU'RE IN
LOVE
WITH
HIM,
AREN'T
YOU!



YOU OUGHT TO BE
ASHAMED OF YOURSELF...
WHO EVER HEARD OF A
WOLF FALLING IN LOVE
WITH A HUMAN!!

AH, BUT
NOW I
GET
IT.



YOU WERE
FOOLED BY HIS
WOLF FACE,
RIGHT?! YOU
THOUGHT HE
WAS A MALE
WOLF!!

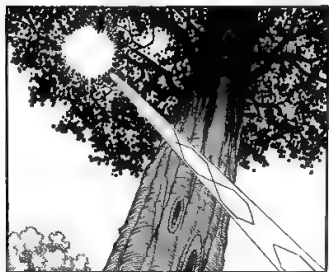
WELL, LET ME
TELL YOU,
DEAR HE'S
NOT A WOLF,
HE'S A HUMAN...
A MAN!

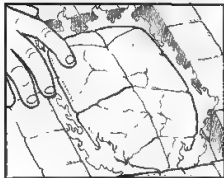
AND I'LL
NEVER
LET YOU
HAVE
HIM!
WOLFIE
HERE IS
LIKE MY
OWN SON!
HE'S
MINE, ALL
MINE!

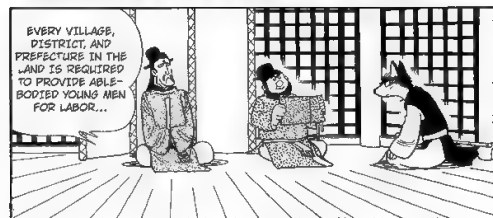


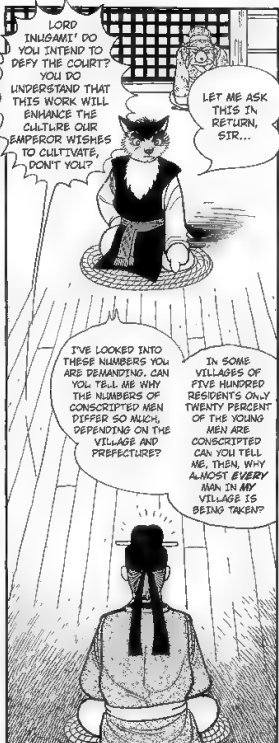
AH...WHAT AN ACT
OF PERVERSION,
MADAM...
KISSING A
FEMALE
WOLF!!

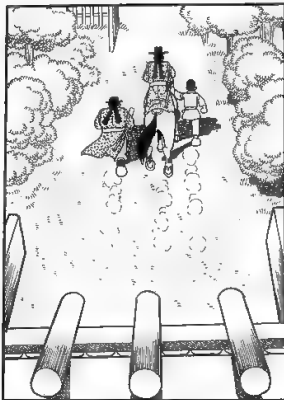
OH,
SHADDUP,
YOU FOOL!



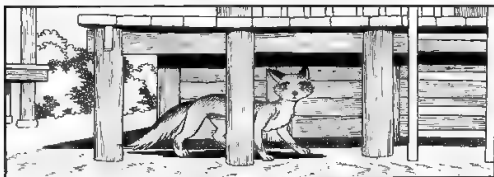


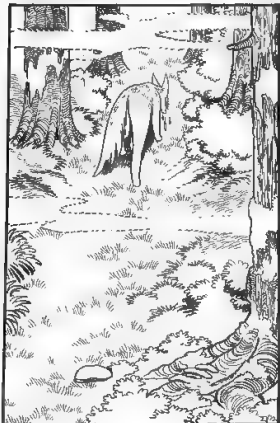
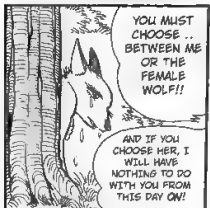














MARIMO!



MARIMO!
WHERE
ARE YOU!



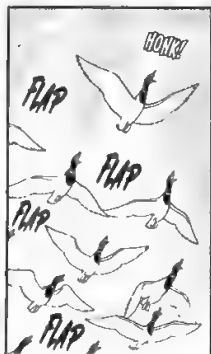
SHE'S
GONE...

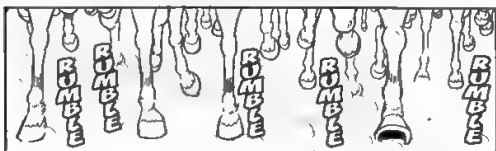
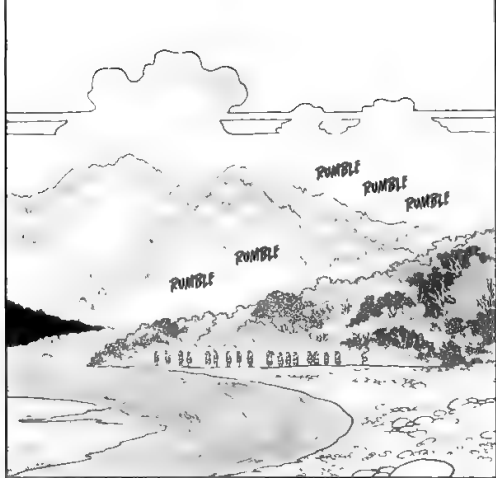


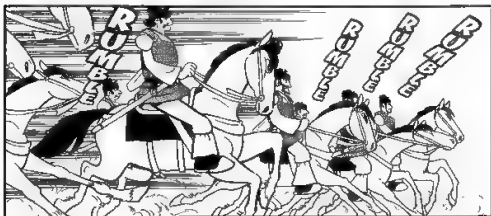
MARIMO!

MARIMO!
FORGIVE ME!
I LOVE YOU!!

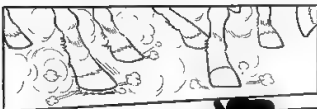








HALT!



LORD INUGAMI
SUKUNE'S
ESTATE IS JUST
DOWN THE
RIVER.



WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO
PAY A LITTLE VISIT, MEN,
TO THIS WILLFUL
INUGAMI CHARACTER,
WHO HAS SPURNED AN
IMPERIAL ORDER FOR
CONSCRIPT LABOR

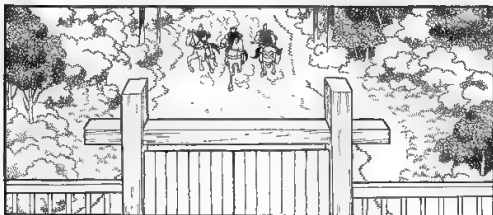
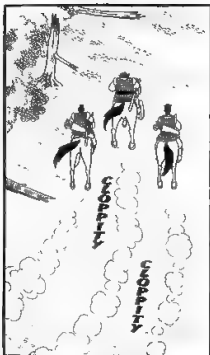
WE ARE TO USE ANY
FORCE NECESSARY
TO MAKE HIM
COMPLY. IF HE
RESISTS, WE ARE
AUTHORIZED TO
CONFISCATE
HIS LAND.

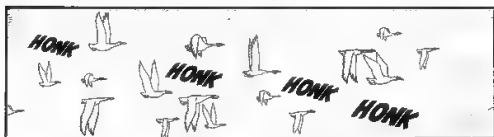


WE COULD
EASILY
STAGE A
SURPRISE
ATTACK, BUT
I AM A MAN
OF HONOR!

I'M GOING TO
GIVE HIM ONE
LAST CHANCE
TO LISTEN TO
REASON. YOU
ALL WILL
WAIT HERE.

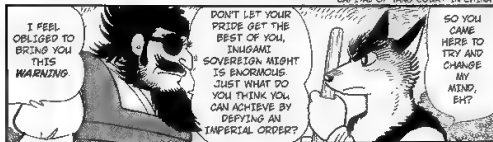




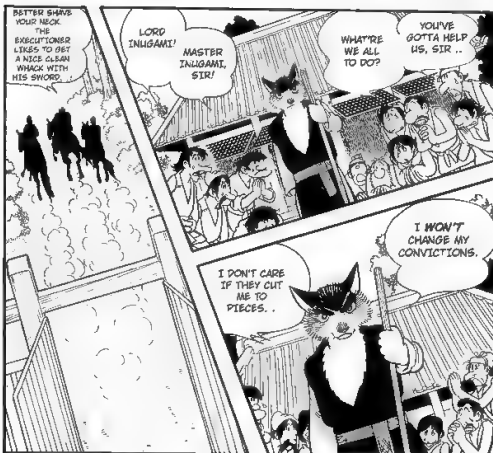
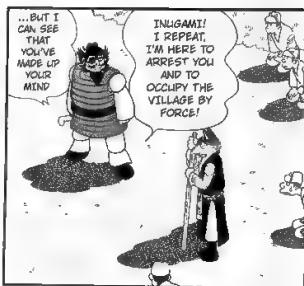




* CAPITAL OF TANG COURT IN CHINA

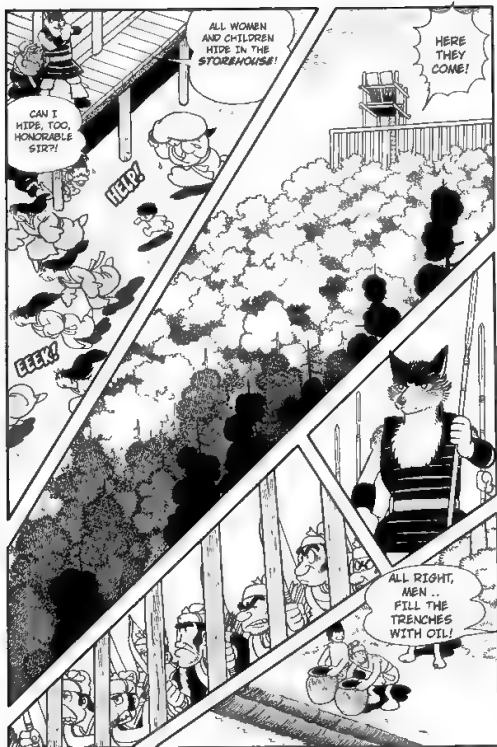


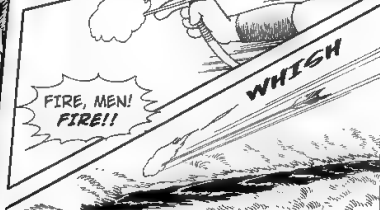
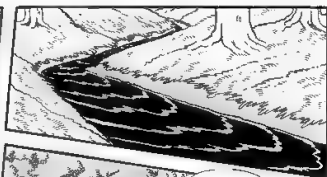




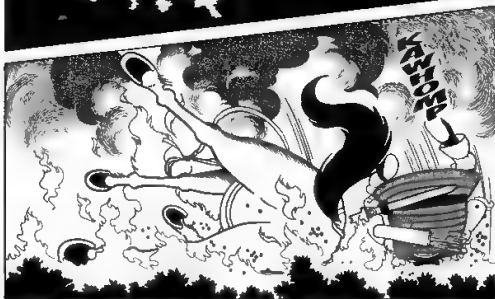
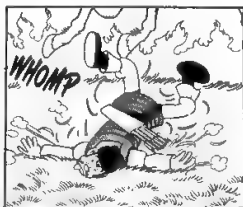


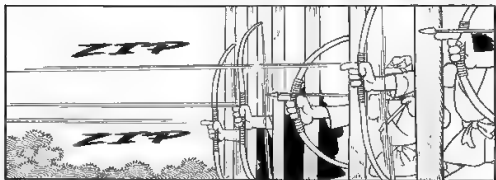
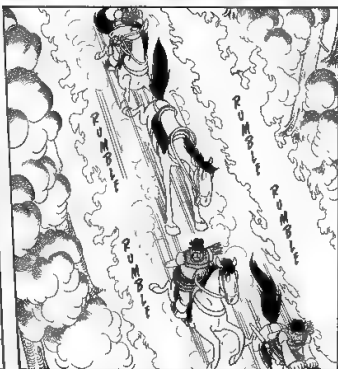


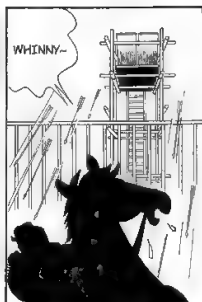
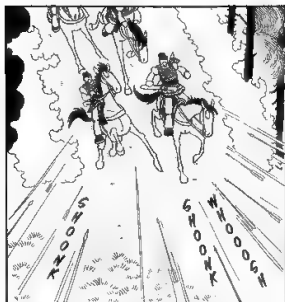
















FIVE DEAD, THREE WOUNDED, SEVEN MEN AND TWELVE HORSES WITH BURNS. WHAT A TERRIBLE DEFEAT

I WASN'T PREPARED FOR THAT BURNING MOAT. ALL RIGHT MEN. REGROUP! WE'RE GOING TO ATTACK AGAIN!



B. .BUT COMMANDER!

IF WE ATTACK AGAIN, THEY'LL JUST HIT US WITH MORE FIRE!

TRUE, THE FIRE HAS OUR HORSES SPOOKED BUT FOOT SOLDIERS AREN'T ANIMALS

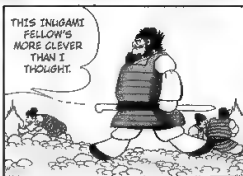


YATTORI! GO BACK TO THE CAPITAL AND TELL THEM WE NEED FIVE THOUSAND REINFORCEMENTS. MAKE SURE THEY'RE ALL FOOT SOLDIERS!

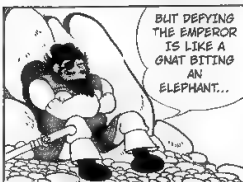
YES, SIR!



EVERYONE DISMOUNT! WE'LL MAKE OUR CAMPFIRES BY THE RIVER HERE AND GET SOME GRUB. WE'LL STAND DOWN UNTIL THE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.

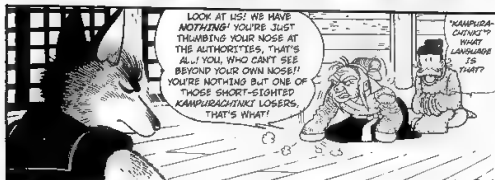
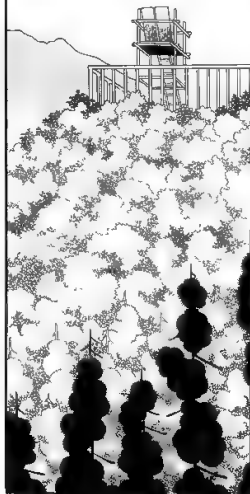


THIS INUGAMI FELLOW'S MORE CLEVER THAN I THOUGHT.

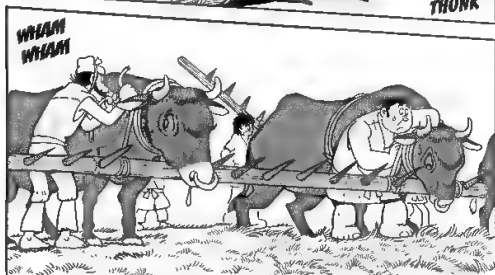


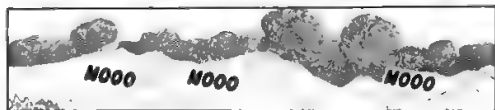
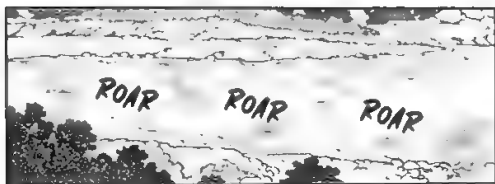
BUT DEFYING THE EMPEROR IS LIKE A GNAT BITING AN ELEPHANT...

SILENCE

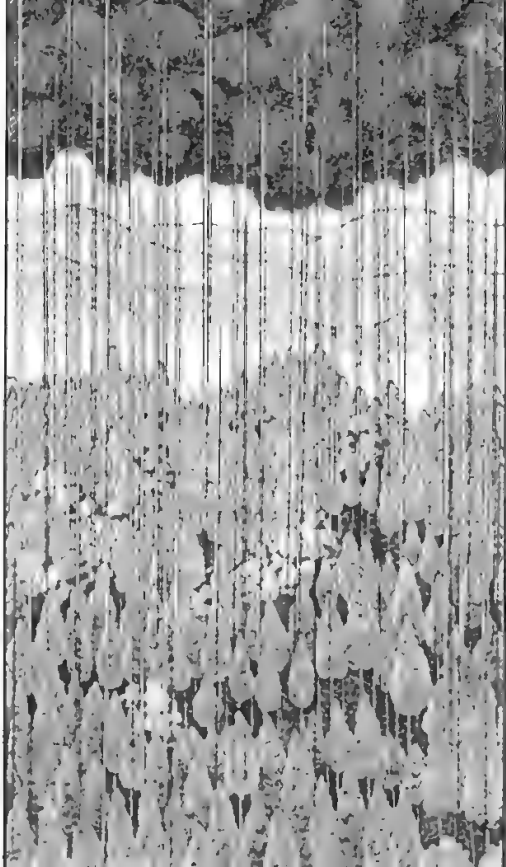


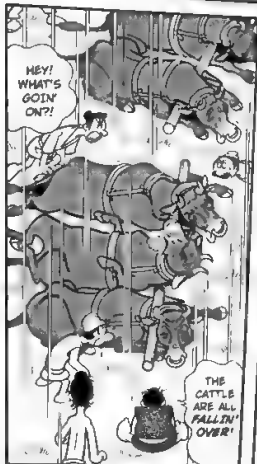


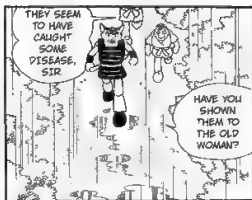










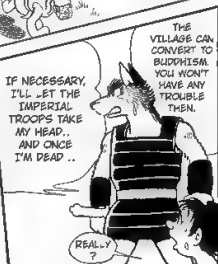
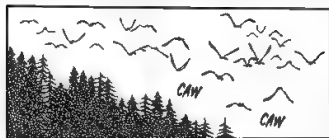




TRAMP

TRAMP

TRAMP



KUCHI'INU!
DON'T YOU
EVEN DARE
THINK OF
DYING!

WHAT
THE?!

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

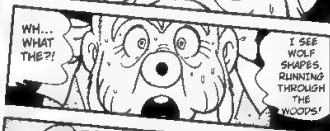
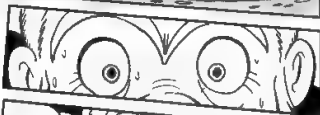
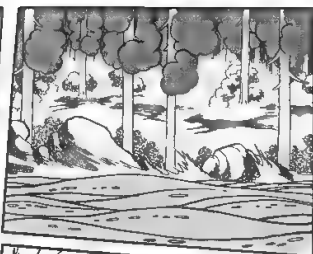
ROAR
ROAR
ROAR

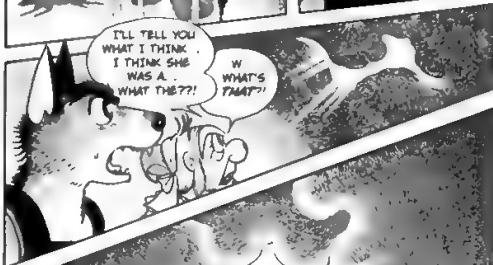
GRRRRRAAAAFOOOM









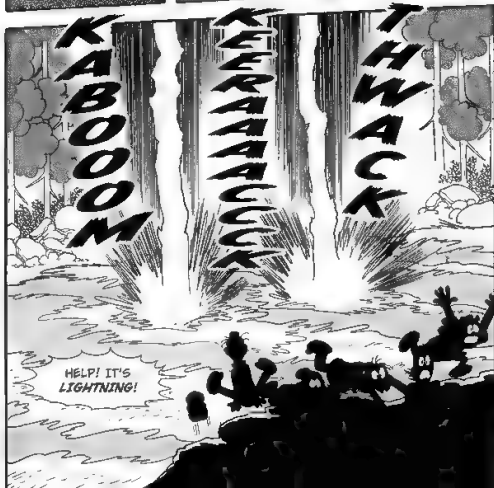




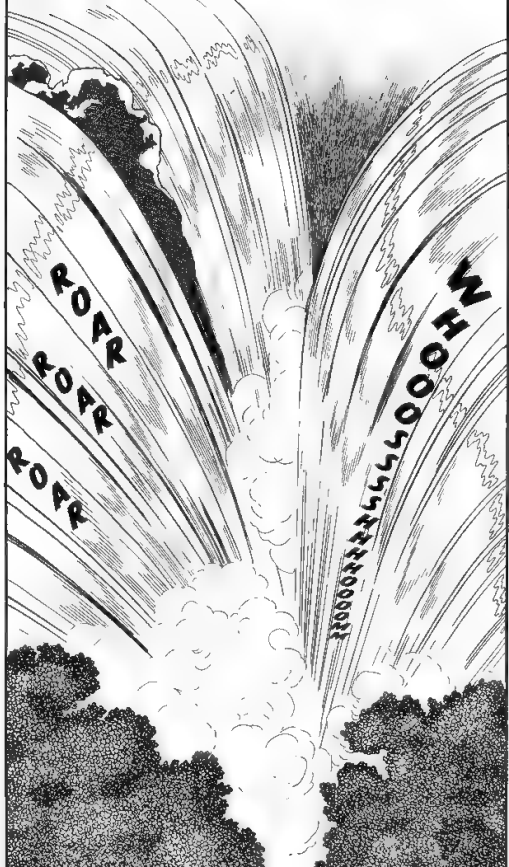
THERE'S
SOMETHING
IN THE
CLOUDS!

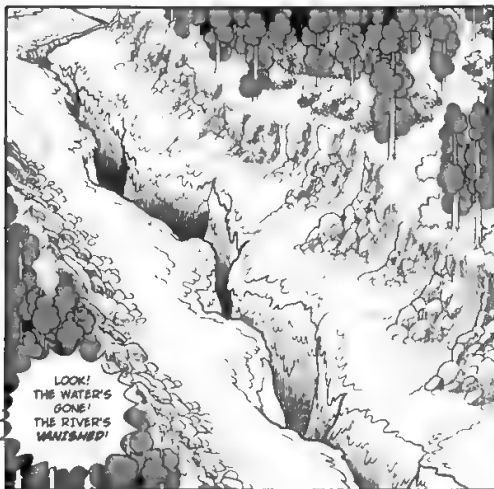


YIKES!
RUN
FOR IT!



HELP! IT'S
LIGHTNING!







TH...THE
VALLEY'S SPLIT
IN TWO. THAT
GIANT GUY IN
THE CLOUDS
SPLIT IT
RIGHT DOWN
THE CENTER!

SUCH
TERRIBLE
POWER...

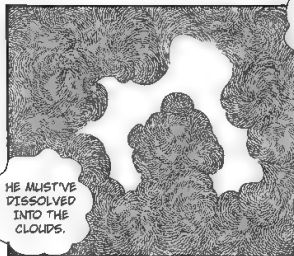
I...
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THIS...

WHERE'D
THAT
DEMON
GO?!



EVERY-
ONE!
GET
BACK!

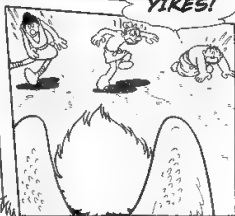
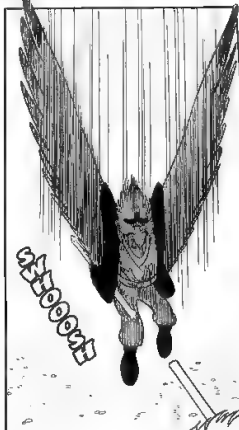
GET AWAY
FROM THE
RIVER!
THERE'S
DANGER
HERE!



HE MUST'VE
DISSOLVED
INTO THE
CLOUDS.



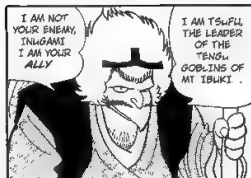








I DON'T KNOW
WHAT SORT OF
EVIL SPIRIT
YOU ARE, BUT
IF YOU'RE
ONE OF THE
EMPEROR'S
HENCHMEN,
YOU'LL NOT
LEAVE HERE
UNSCATHED.



I AM NOT
YOUR ENEMY,
INUGAMI.
I AM YOUR
ALLY.

I AM TSUFU,
THE LEADER
OF THE
TENGL
GOBLINS OF
MT. TSUKI.



SO
WHAT'S
YOUR
PURPOSE
IN
COMING
HERE?

I CAME TO
DISCUSS THE
ISSUE OF MY
PEOPLE
JOINING YOU,
INUGAMI..



VERY WELL,
THEN...
COME IN.



LET ME SPEAK
FRANKLY...
RUBETS, THE HEAD
OF THE SPIRIT
CLAN, AND I ARE
LIKE BLOOD
BROTHERS...

Y. YOU
KNOW THE
SPIRIT
CLAN?







JUST GO AHEAD AND DO WHAT YOU WANT!
GO TO WAR...DO SUMO WRESTLING...
DEPLOY YOUR FORCES, SCHMORCES...
DO WHATEVER THE CRAP YOU WANT!!
〈SOB〉 〈SOB〉



THERE,
THERE...
OLD
WOMAN...
DON'T
CRY...



〈SOB〉 IF I WERE
FIFTY YEARS
YOUNGER, I COULD
CRY AND MAKE YOU
TAKE PITY ON ME...
MAKE YOU CHANGE
YOUR MIND...
BUT 〈SOB〉
I'M JUST A
WRINKLED
OLD HAG
NOW...



LOOK!
TSUFU
DISAPPEARED
!

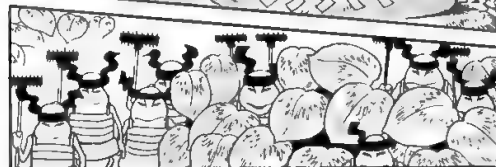
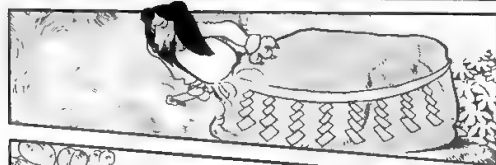


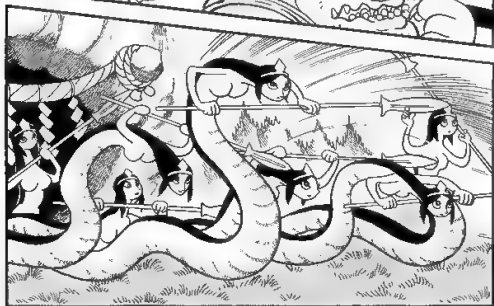
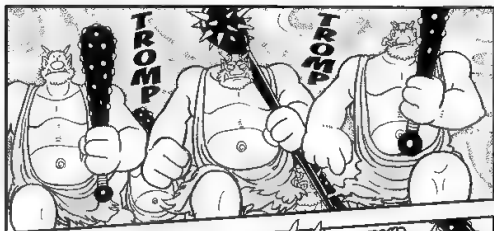
I GUESS HE
GOT THE
ANSWER HE
WAS HOPING
FOR...

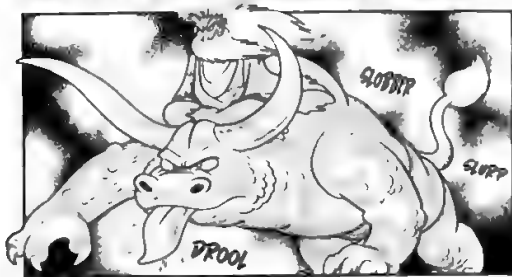


LISTEN!
IT'S TSUFU!
HE'S
SPEAKING
FROM THE
SKY!



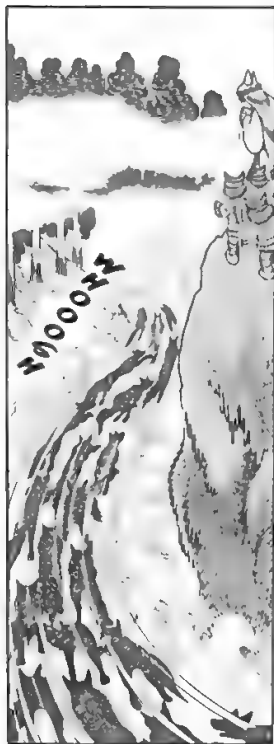


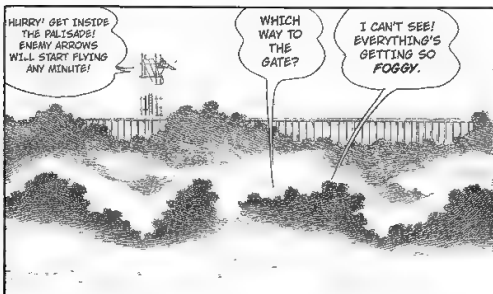




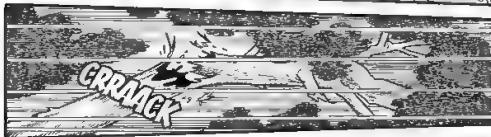


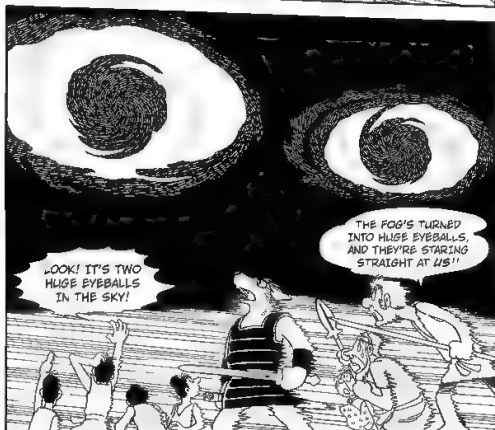
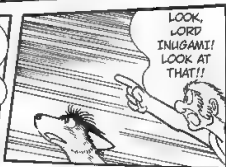


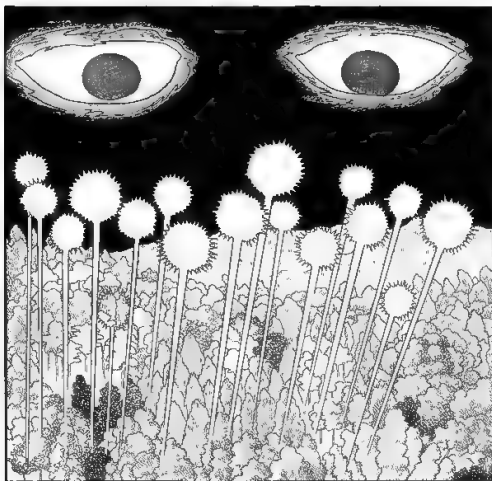
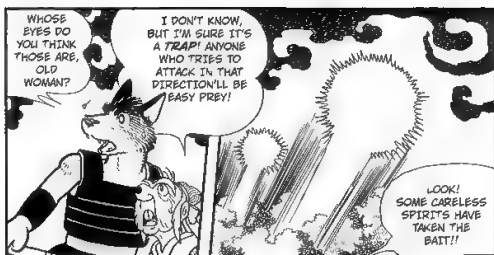


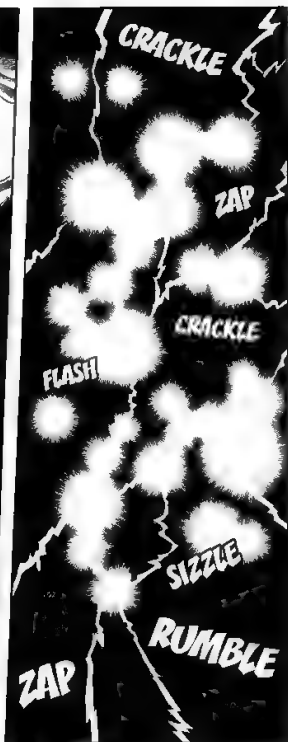
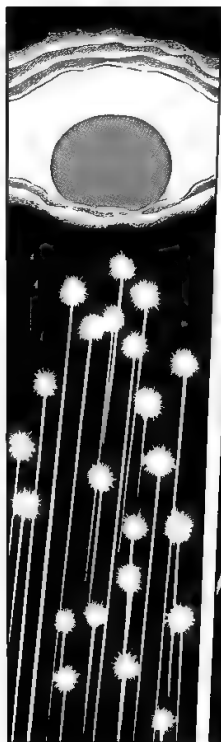






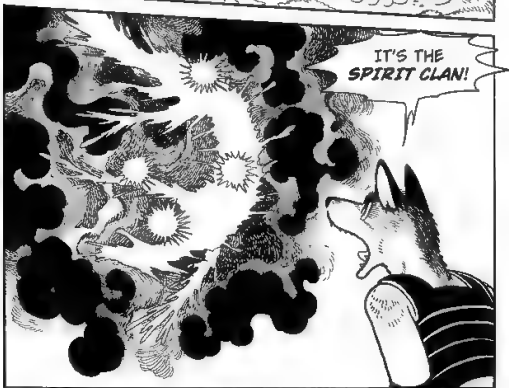
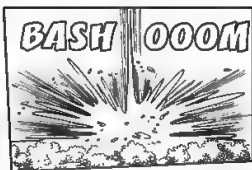






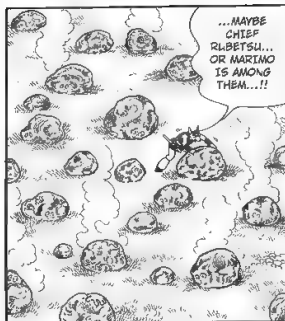


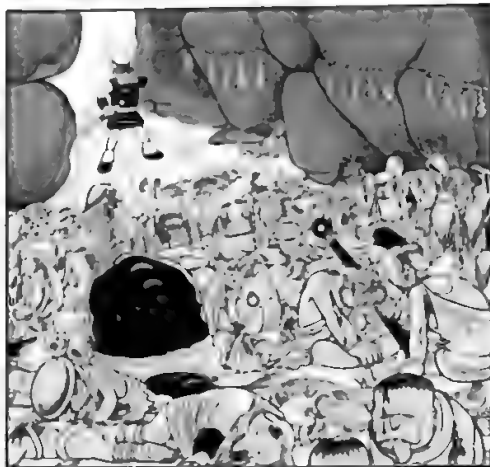














SO THESE
ARE ALL THE
WOUNDED?

YES
FORTUNE
WAS NOT
ON THEIR
SIDE ..

AND THEY
HAVE ALL BEEN
GRAVELY
INJURED IN
THE FIGHT
WITH THE
FOREIGN
SPIRITS



DEAR
HUSBAND
LORD
INUGAMI
IS HERE

LIGH ..
WHO .. ?



CHIEF
RUBETSU....!

AH..
YOU'VE
COME...



I WASN'T
CAREFUL
ENOUGH, AND
SUFFERED A
LITTLE
SCRATCH
MYSELF .

BUT
UNFORTUNATELY
IT APPEARS THAT
MOST OF THE
MEMBERS OF MY
CLAN HAVE BEEN
KILLED IN
BATTLE.

I FEAR
I GRAVELY
UNDERESTIMATED
THE STRENGTH
OF OUR
ADVERSARIES.

BUT SIR,
IT'S TOO
SOON TO
DESPAIR...



I CONVINCED MARIMO TO STAY
BEHIND FOR THE SAKE OF OUR
GRANDCHILDREN LORD
INUGAMI. IF WE SHOULD BE
WIPED OUT
PLEASE TAKE
CARE OF MY
DAUGHTER..



BUT
BEFORE
THAT
I I'VE
STILL GOT
ENOUGH
STRENGTH
TO GO AT
THE ENEMY
ONE MORE
TIME

PLEASE, DEAR
NOT WITH YOUR
WOUNDS IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!





THERE'S A BIT OF A LULL IN THE FIGHTING, SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A BREAK AND CATCH MY BREATH OVER HERE FOR A MINUTE

THOSE BASTARDS ARE GIVIN' US QUITE A WHIPPIN'!

IBUKIMARU! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM?!



OH? THIS ONE?

KAIKOKUTEN CUT IT OFF...



CUT IT OFF?! YOU'VE GOT TO GET TREATED!



NAW! IT'S NUTTIN'...

HALF MY NECK IS CUT THROUGH, TOO...SEE?

BUT, YOU KNOW, WE DEMONS DON'T FEEL NUTTIN', EVEN IF WE LOSE AN ARM OR OUR HEADS... IT'S NUTTIN' TO WORRY 'BOUT.

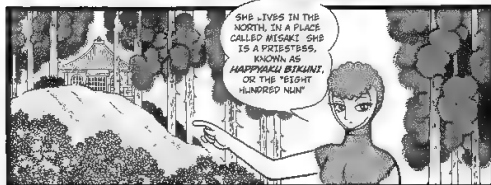
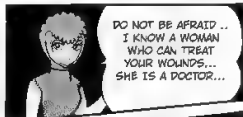


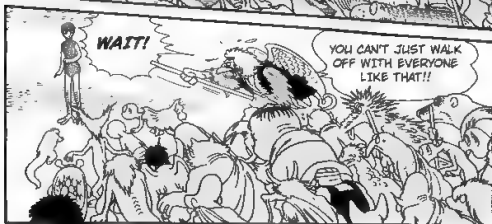
AND SPEAKING OF TREATMENT, WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY MEDICINAL HERBS HERE...

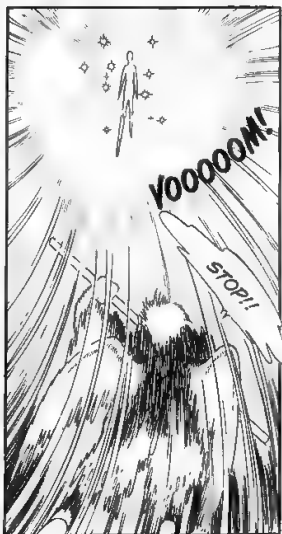


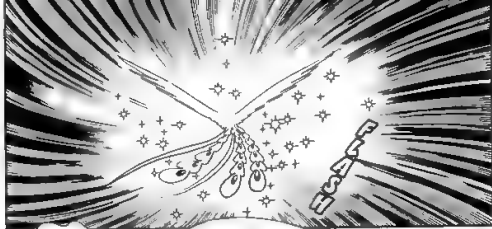
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!

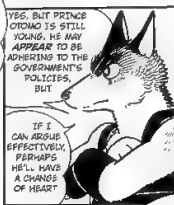
IF WE'D KNOWN WE WERE GOING TO BE TROUNCED LIKE THIS, WE AT LEAST WOULD HAVE HAD SOME MEDICINE ON HAND













RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE



THUNDER
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

SO YOU'RE
STILL
GRUNGLING.
EH, YOU GODS
OF THUNDER?



PUT DOWN YOUR
ARMS, BUDDHIST
SPIRIT WARRIORS,
AND GO BACK TO THE
PLACE YOU CAME
FROM. I DECLARE
A TRUCE!
I'M SURRENDERING
TO YOU!



TRAMP
TRAMP
TRAMP

THE
IMPERIAL
TROOPS
THEY'RE
COMING









I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS, SIR. WHY DON'T WE JUST KILL HIM NOW AND BE DONE WITH IT?



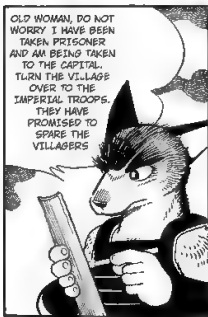
INIGAMI! I'M SURE YOU HAVE SOME CONDITIONS FOR YOUR SURRENDER, RIGHT?



THE PEOPLE OF MY VILLAGE ARE INNOCENT, SO PLEASE DON'T KILL THEM. LET ME WRITE A NOTE OF FAREWELL TO MY PEOPLE. AFTER THAT YOU CAN TAKE ME TO THE CAPITAL.



SOUNDS FAIR ENOUGH! SOMEONE LEND HIM A QUILL.



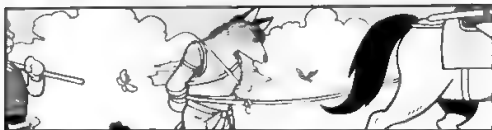
OLD WOMAN, DO NOT WORRY I HAVE BEEN TAKEN PRISONER AND AM BEING TAKEN TO THE CAPITAL. TURN THE VILLAGE OVER TO THE IMPERIAL TROOPS. THEY HAVE PROMISED TO SPARE THE VILLAGERS



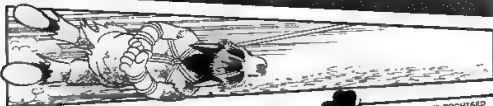
YOU TAKE HIM BACK TO THE CAPITAL, CAP'N KIJIRA. I'LL RIDE INTO THE VILLAGE FROM HERE.

MAKE SURE HE MAKES IT SAFELY TO HIS PLACE OF JUDGMENT.

FOR A FREAK WITH A WOLF'S HEAD, HE SURE ACTS ALIEN. DOESN'T HE.



HAR HAR HAR HAR HAR



HA HA HA HA

DOESN'T PUT
UP MUCH
FIGHT FOR A
WOLF, DOES
HE? WHA HA
HA HA!

WHA, CAPTAIN. WE PROMISED
TO DELIVER HIM IN GOOD
CONDITION. DIDN'T WE?

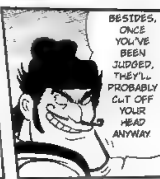
HA HA HA HA

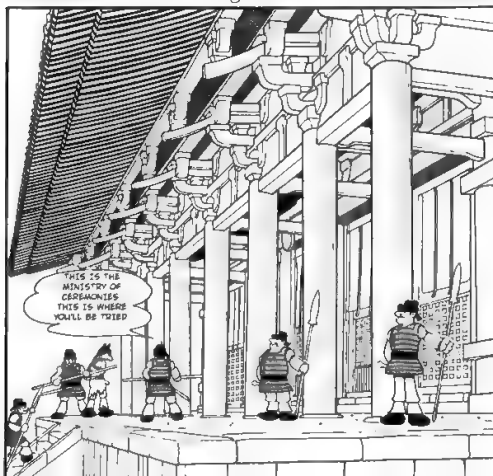
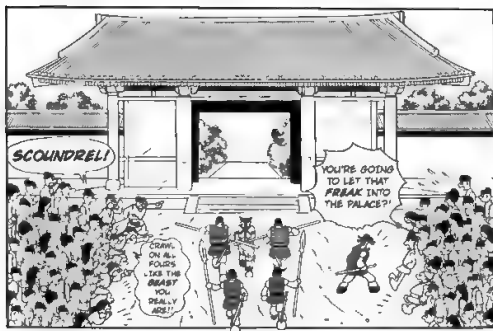


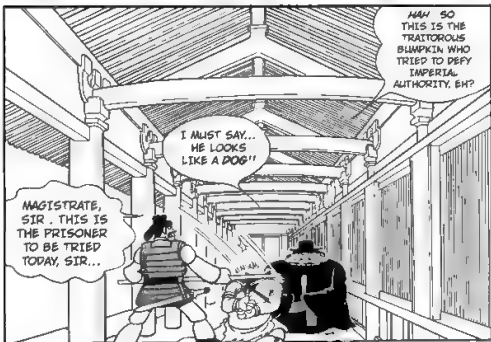
DON'T
WORRY I'M
NOT GOING
TO KILL YOU,
WOLF-MAN.
YOU'LL MAKE
IT THERE BUT
YOU'LL
PROBABLY
WISH YOU
DIDN'T



BESIDES,
ONCE
YOU'VE
BEEN
JUDGED,
THEY'LL
PROBABLY
CUT OFF
YOUR
HEAD
ANYWAY







HAH SO
THIS IS THE
TRAITOROUS
BLIMPIN WHO
TRIED TO DEFEY
IMPERIAL
AUTHORITY, EH?

I MUST SAY...
HE LOOKS
LIKE A DOG!!

MAGISTRATE,
SIR. THIS IS
THE PRISONER
TO BE TRIED
TODAY, SIR...



YOU'RE AN
AWFULLY
STRANGE-LOOKING
FELLOW, HARDLY
HUMAN
AT ALL...

BUT AROUND
HERE WE TRY TO
JUDGE PEOPLE,
EVEN THE GUILTY
WITH A CERTAIN
AMOUNT OF
COMPASSION.

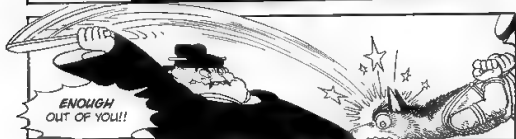
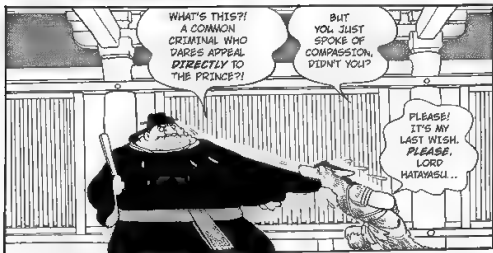
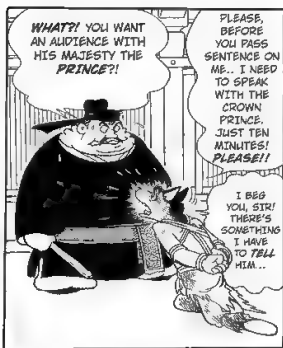
BEFORE
YOUR TRIAL,
SHOULD YOU
HAVE ANY
PARTICULAR
REQUESTS, I
WILL TRY TO
TAKE THEM
INTO
ACCOUNT



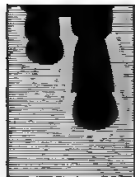
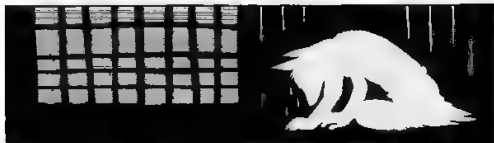
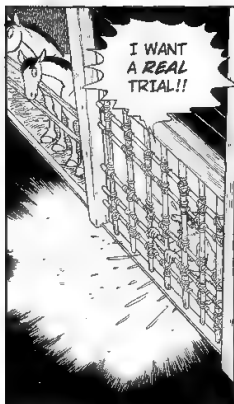
WH. WHO
ARE YOU?



I'M SOGA NO
OMIHATAYASHI ..
THE TOP ADVISOR
TO HIS MAJESTY,
PRINCE OTOMO...









INUGAMI! THE
ROOSTER'S CROW AT
SUNRISE TOMORROW IS
THE SIGNAL FOR YOU
TO BE **BEHEADED**...
DID YOU KNOW THAT?



I...I'M
TO BE
EXECUTED
IN THE
MORNING
?!

B...BUT I
HAVEN'T
EVEN BEEN
FORMALLY
SENTENCED
YET!



I'M ONLY A
SOLDIER, NOT A
MAGISTRATE, SO
I REALLY DON'T
KNOW HOW
THESE
MATTERS ARE
CONDUCTED



I'M SORRY,
BUT
THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO.

B...BUT I
CAN'T DIE!
NOT NOW!!



I CAN'T
DIE
LIKE A
DOG!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?
YOU ARE
A DOG!!

WELL, IF I'M
TO DIE, AT
LEAST ALLOW ME
TO SEE PRINCE
OTOMO! I WANT
TO RECEIVE MY
LAST BUDDHIST
RITES.

THAT'S FAR
TOO MUCH
TO ASK,
INUGAMI...

BUT IF I'D
KNOWN I
WOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO MEET
HIM, I NEVER
WOULD HAVE
SURRENDERED IN
THE FIRST
PLACE!

AH, SO
THAT
WAS
IT!

YOU
WANTED
TO BE
BROUGHT
HERE,
EH?

I KNEW
THERE HAD
TO BE
REASON...

YOU CRAZY
FOOL. DID YOU
ACTUALLY THINK
A PRISONER
WHO'S BEEN
SENTENCED TO
DEATH WOULD
GET AN
AUDIENCE WITH
HIS MAJESTY,
THE CROWN
PRINCE?

IF THAT WAS YOUR
PLAN ALL ALONG,
WHY DIDN'T YOU
CONFIDE IN ME
FROM THE START?
I WOULD HAVE
HEARD YOU OUT.



COME ON!
GET UP! YOU
HAVE AN
AUDIENCE
WITH THE
CROWN
PRINCE!

WHAT?!
WITH THE
PRINCE
?!

YOU ASKED
HIM, FOR
ME?!

I'M
FOREVER
IN YOUR
DEBT,
GENERAL.

YOU CAN'T
GO LIKE
THAT,
THOUGH.
HERE!
PUT
THESE
CLOTHES
ON!

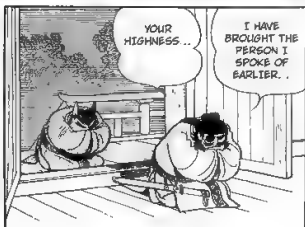
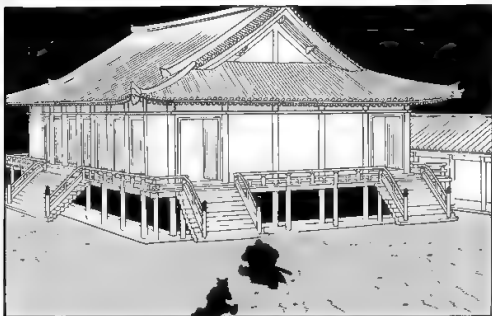
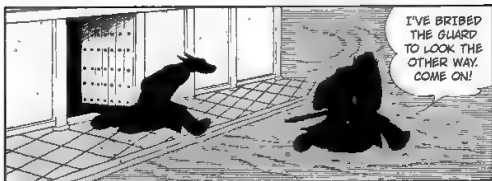
YOU SEEM
SURPRISED,
INIGAMI, BUT
IN TRUTH THE
PRINCE SEEMED
EVEN MORE
SURPRISED TO
HEAR ABOUT
YOU

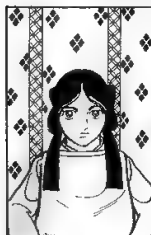
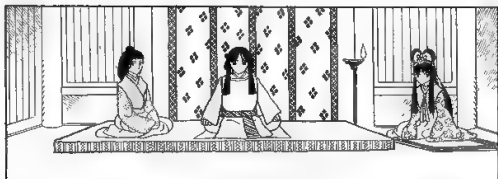
...WHEN HE
HEARD THERE
WAS A REQUEST
FROM A MAN
WITH A WOLF'S
HEAD, HE WAS
ACTUALLY THE
FIRST TO
SUGGEST A
MEETING.

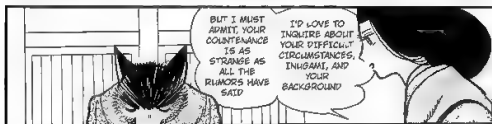
YOU'RE
ONE HELL
OF A LUCKY
MAN,
INIGAMI

OF COURSE.
WHO ELSE?
AFTER SOME
ARM TWISTING
HE AGREED TO
MEET WITH YOU,
BUT ONLY FOR A
FEW MOMENTS.

THERE'S NO
TIME TO
WASTE.
WE'VE GOT
TO GO TO
THE PALACE
NOW!









AND
ANOTHER
QUESTION,
IF I MAY...
DO YOU
HAVE A
TAIL?



MOTHER! PLEASE!
WE CAN DO
WITHOUT SUCH
FRIVOLOUS
QUESTIONS.

THIS MAN
HASN'T
THE TIME
FOR SUCH
CHATTER.



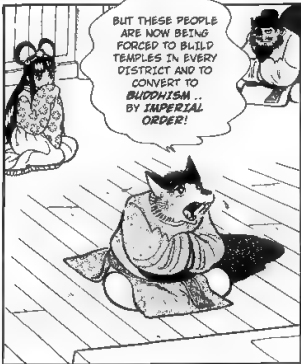
IT IS LATE,
INAGAMI SUKUNE.
TELL ME WHAT
IS IT YOU HAVE
COME HERE FOR?

DO YOU
WISH TO
PLEAD FOR
YOUR LIFE?



YOUR
HIGH-
NESS..

FAR TO THE
EAST OF
THE
CAPITAL
THERE ARE
MANY LANDS
AND MANY
VILLAGES.



BUT THESE PEOPLE
ARE NOW BEING
FORCED TO BUILD
TEMPLES IN EVERY
DISTRICT AND TO
CONVERT TO
BUDDHISM...
BY IMPERIAL
ORDER!



AND THE
PEOPLE OF
THOSE
LANDS
MAINTAIN
VARIOUS
BELIEFS
AND
RITUALS.

ALLOW ME TO MAKE
THIS PLEA ON
THEIR BEHALF!
SUPPRESSING
YOUR SUBJECTS'
BELIEFS AND
FORCING THEM TO
ADOPT A NEW
RELIGION...

... WILL ONLY
CAUSE ANGUISH
IN THEIR HEARTS,
AND DISRUPT
THEIR
OTHERWISE
PEACEFUL
LIVES.

PLEASE, YOUR
HIGHNESS
HAVE COMPASSION
LET THESE PEOPLE
CHOOSE THEIR OWN
BELIEFS AND
RELIGION!



OOK...
HE'S
CRYING!
I'VE
NEVER
SEEN A
DOG CRY
BEFORE...



SILENCE,
PRINCESS
TOCHI!
PLEASE!



CONTINUE,
PLEASE.

PLEASE...
ALLOW FOR
SOME
MODERATION
IN THE
PRESENT
EDICTS...



IN OTHER
WORDS, YOU
WANT ME TO
RELAX OUR
EFFORTS TO
PROMOTE
BUDDHISM..?

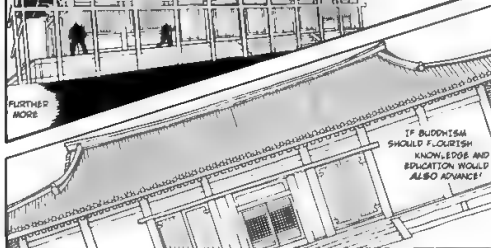
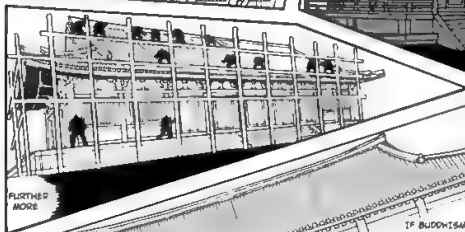
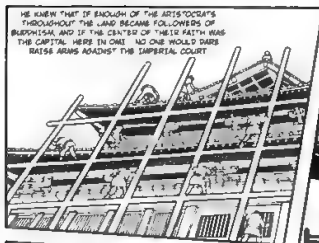


YES,
YOUR
HIGHNESS!



THAT IS THE VERY
REASON I HAVE
RISKED MY LIFE
TO COME HERE





SO, SPREADING
BUDDHISM IS
PART OF OUR
STRATEGY IT
HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH
RELIGION. IT
IS A PURELY
POLITICAL
DECISION.

I PERSONALLY
PREFER NOT TO PUSH
THIS MATTER TOO FIRMLY,
BUT MY ADVISORS AND
THE BUDDHIST PRIESTS
WOULD OPPOSE ANY
RELAXATION OF THE
EXISTING EDICTS.



SO
THERE
YOU
HAVE
IT



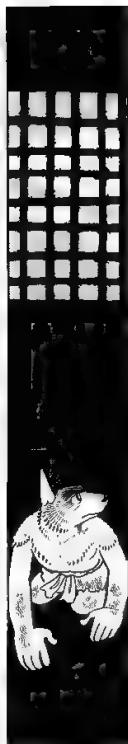
YOU
MUST
ACCEPT
THIS
REALITY.

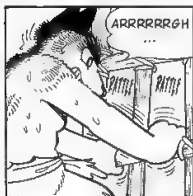
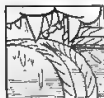


I AM SORRY,
INUGAMI
SUKINE.

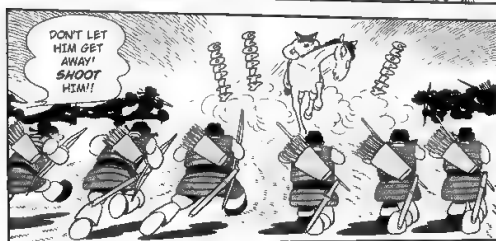


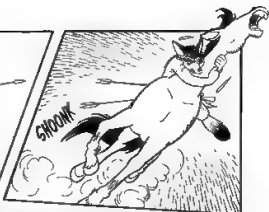


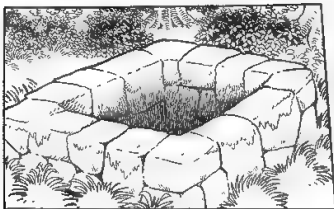




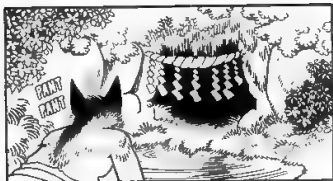


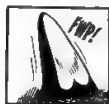
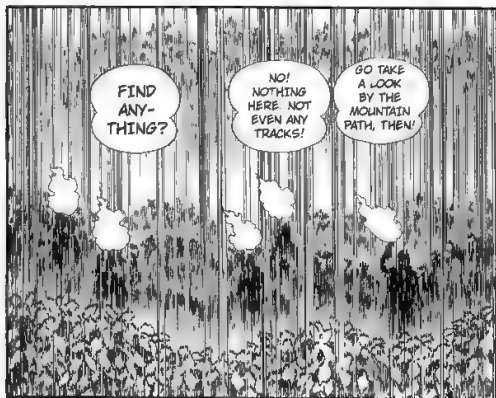


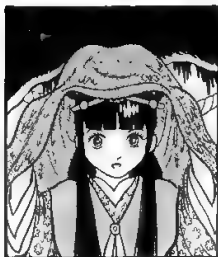














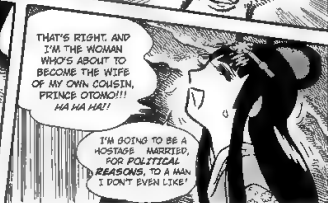
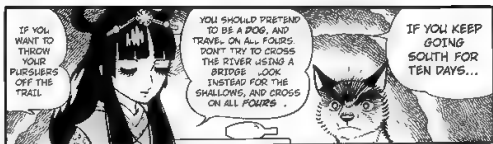




LISTEN TO ME, INDIANS!
THERE ARE SPIES EVERY FOOT OF
THE WAY FROM HERE IN, OUT, ALL THE
WAY TO ASUKA AND WHEREVER YOU
GO THEY'LL SEE YOU AND REPORT
YOU TO THE AUTHORITIES!



THERE'S A
BRIDGE OVER
THE LIT RIVER
FURTHER
UPSTREAM. THE
BOTTLE MASTER
HERE NORMALLY
WALKS BY
AMONG
SUSPICIOUS
THINGS.



AND I'M ONLY
FOURTEEN
YEARS OLD!!
CAN YOU
BELIEVE IT?

I WANTED TO
SPEND MY
YOUTH
HAVING FUN,
BEING
FREE!!

THEY TOOK ME HOSTAGE
AND FORCED ME TO
MARRY, THINKING IT
WOULD PREVENT MY
FATHER FROM GETTING
INVOLVED WITH EVENTS
AT THE CAPITAL. THIS IS
WHY I PRETEND TO BE
A STUPID YOUNG GIRL,
AND TRY NOT TO LET
MY HUSBAND GET
NEAR ME .

WHATEVER
HAPPENS, I
DON'T WANT TO
BEAR HIS
CHILD...

...

YOUR NAME'S
INUGAMI,
RIGHT? DO
YOU HAVE
SOMEONE
YOU
LOVE?

TELL ME
THE TRUTH.
IN THE
LANGUAGE
YOU USE, I
SENSE
SOMETHING
SOPHISTI-
CATED,
EVEN
ELEGANT

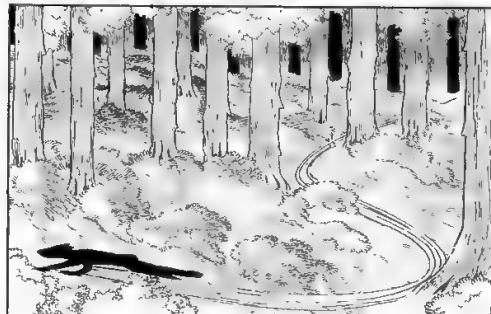
NOW'S
NOT THE
TIME TO
THINK
OF THE
PAST .

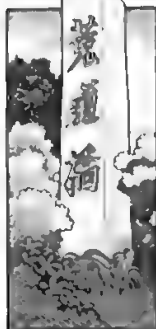
NO! I WANT TO
HEAR ABOUT
YOU! PLEASE,
TELL ME ABOUT
YOURSELF!

I CAME FROM
BAEKJE, ON
THE KOREAN
PENINSULA.
I BELONG TO
THE CLAN
OF BUYEO
PUNG, BUT
WE WERE
DEFEATED
IN BATTLE
AND I HAD
TO ESCAPE
HERE, TO
YAMATO.

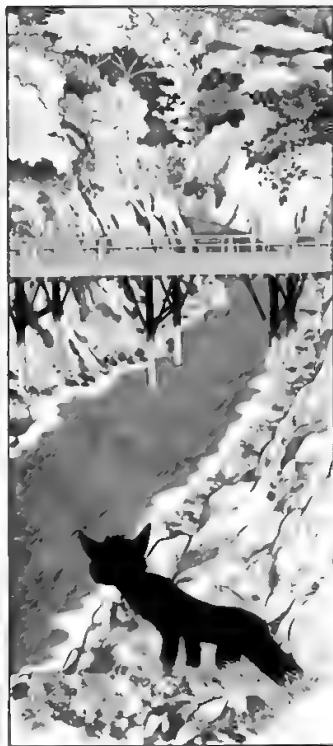


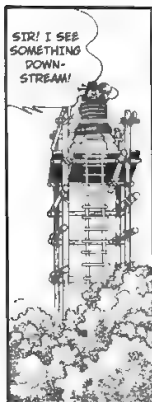


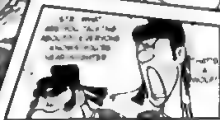


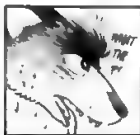


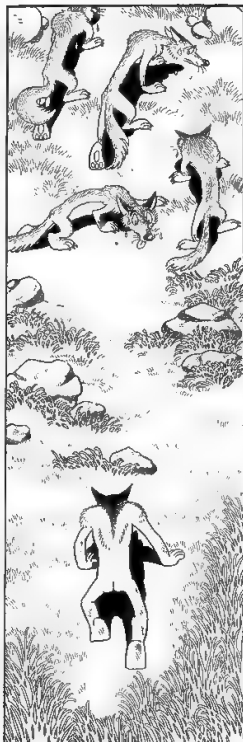
SLOW WIT BRIDES



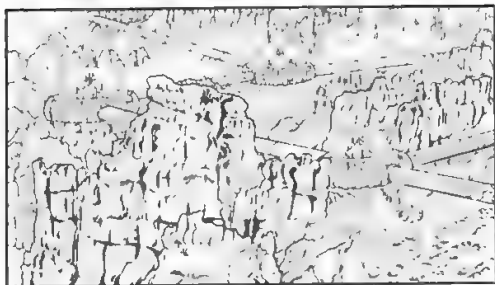


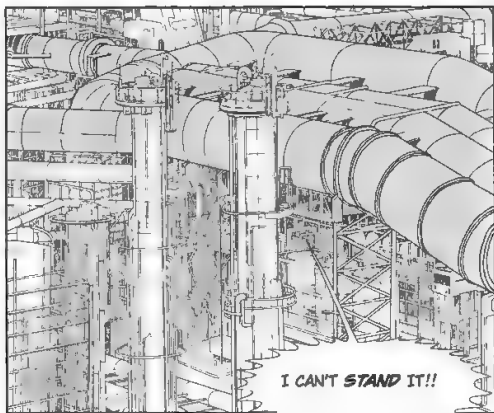




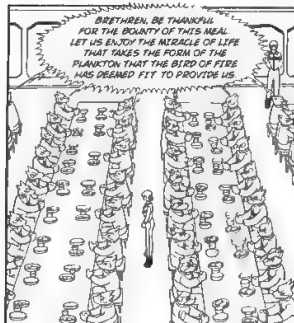








I CAN'T *STAND* IT!!



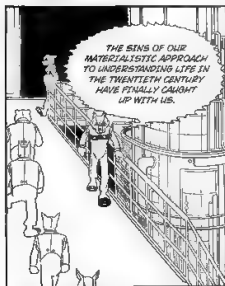
BRETHREN, BE THANKFUL
FOR THE BOUNTY OF THIS MEAL
LET US ENJOY THE MIRACLE OF LIFE
THAT TAKES THE FORM OF THE
PLANKTON THAT THE BIRD OF FIRE
HAS DEEMED FIT TO PROVIDE US

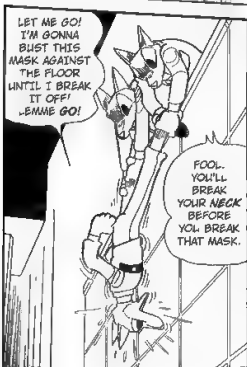
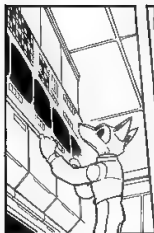


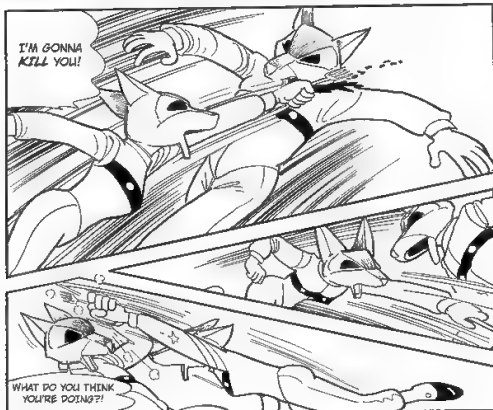
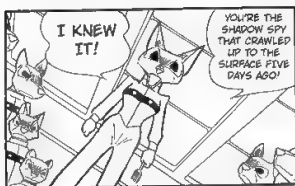
BEGIN
EATING!

CHOMP

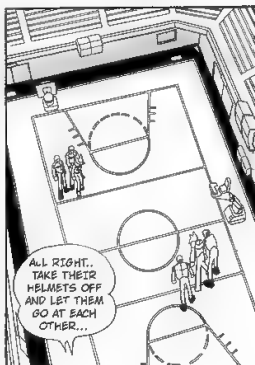
CHOMP

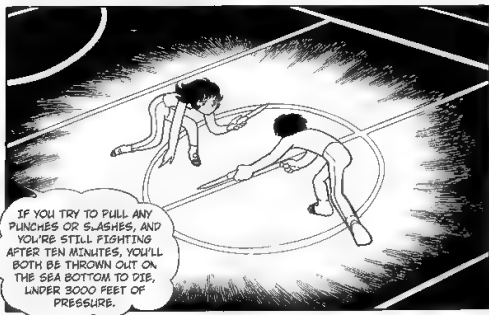


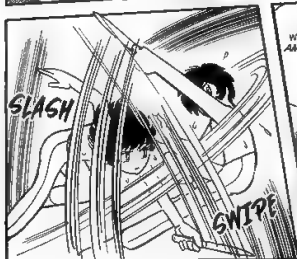
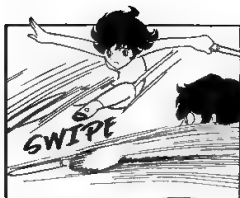


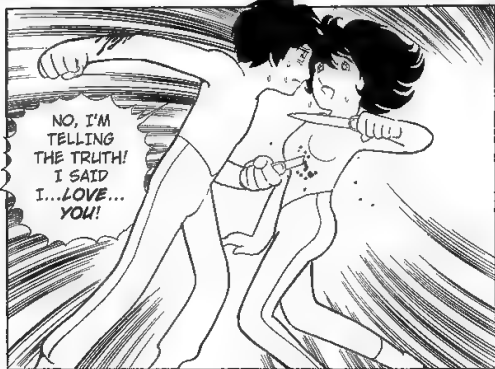
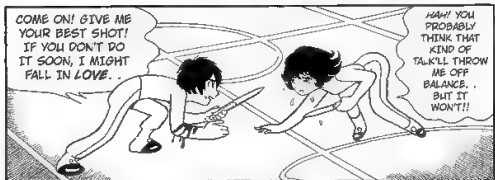


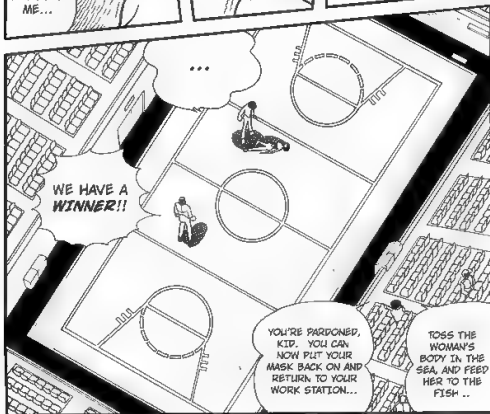
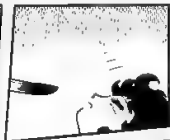
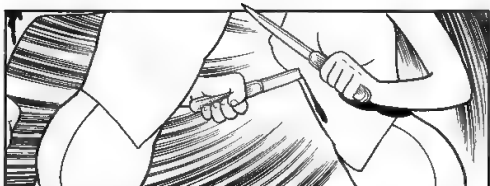




















I CAN
FEEL MY
CONSCIOUS-
NESS
DRIPPING
AWAY

I'M
GETTING
COLD

IT
MUST
BE
NEAR
THE
END.



NO! I'LL
HOLD YOU
AND WARM
YOU UP!



P...PLEASE...
K...KISS ME...
GOODBYE...



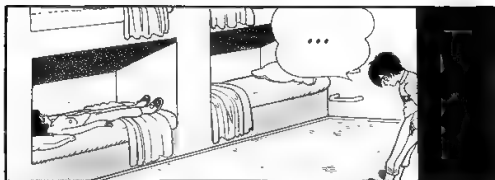
YODOMI...

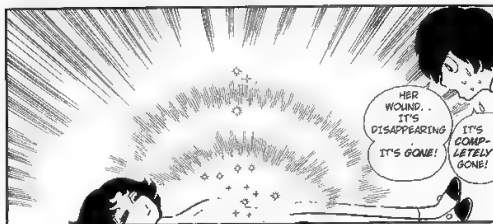
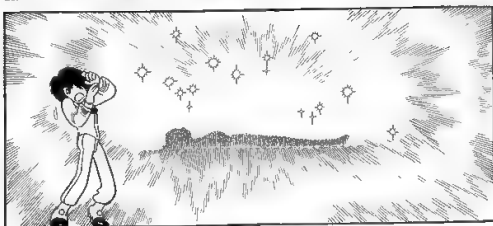
OH, GOD!!
DON'T LET
HER DIE!!

HOW CAN
YOU BE SO
CRUEL?

GOD, IF YOU REALLY
ARE THE BIRD OF
FIRE, WHY DON'T
YOU USE YOUR BLOOD
OF IMMORTALITY AND
HELP HER?!









I...I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT THAT...

NO! YOU
MUST HAVE
DRUNK IT!
YOU'VE BEEN
GIVEN
POWER OVER
DEATH!

B...BUT I
DON'T RECALL
DRINKING ANY
BLOOD. I'VE
NEVER EVEN
HEARD OF IT

ALL RIGHT...
WHATEVER IT WAS,
LET'S MAKE THE MOST
OF IT. FOLLOW MY LEAD!
IF THINGS GO RIGHT,
WE MIGHT MAKE IT
BACK TO THE SURFACE!

LOOK!
SHE'S ALIVE!!

SHE'S
STANDIN'
UP!!

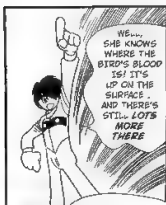
AND
SHE'S
NOT
BLEEDING!

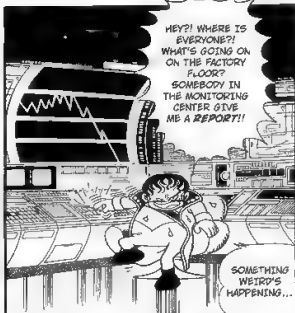
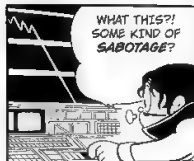
JUST
WHAT'S
GOIN'
ON
HERE?!

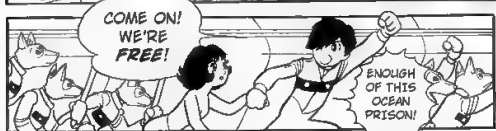
THAT'S RIGHT! SHE'S
NOT DEAD, YOU IDIOTS!
IN FACT, SHE CAN'T DIE!

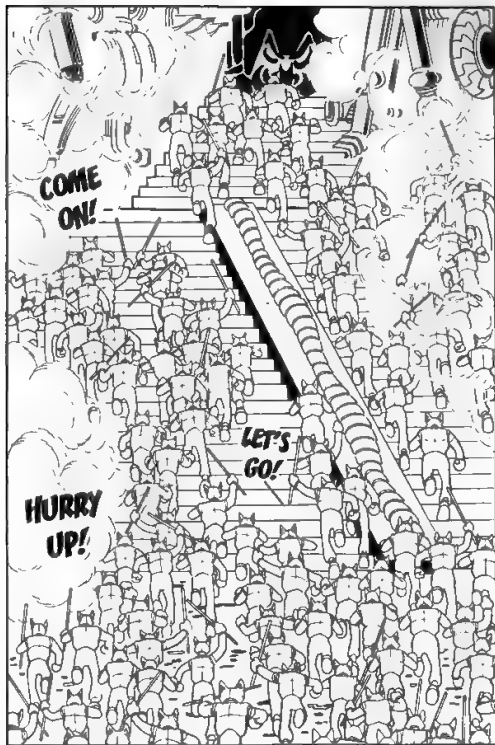
AND YOU
KNOW **WHY**?
YOU REALLY
WANT TO KNOW?
IT'S BECAUSE
SHE DRANK
SOMETHING
BEFORE SHE
CAME HERE.

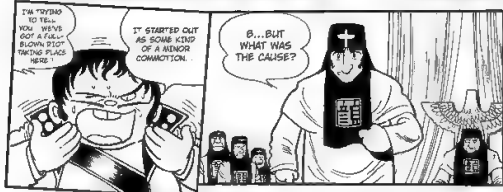
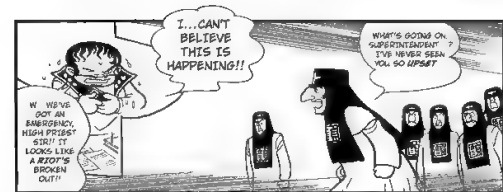
SHE
DRANK
THE
FIRE
BIRD'S
BLOOD!

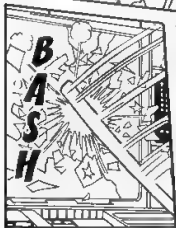
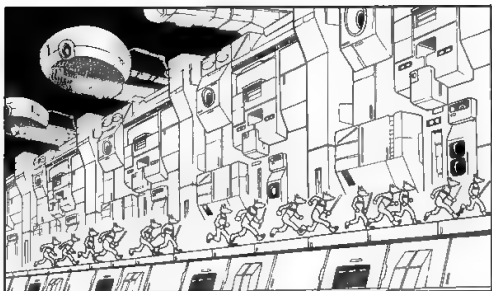


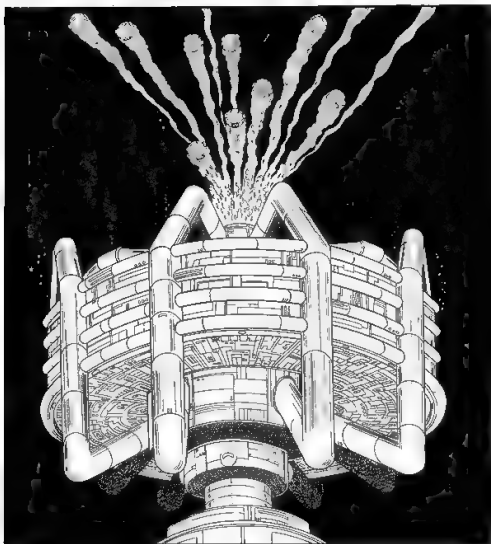
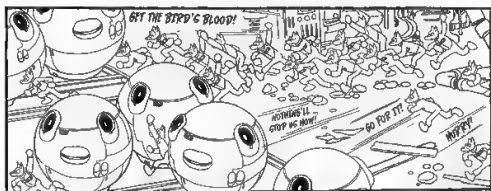


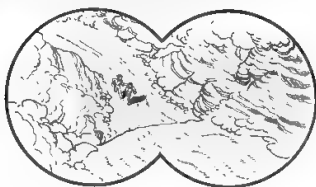
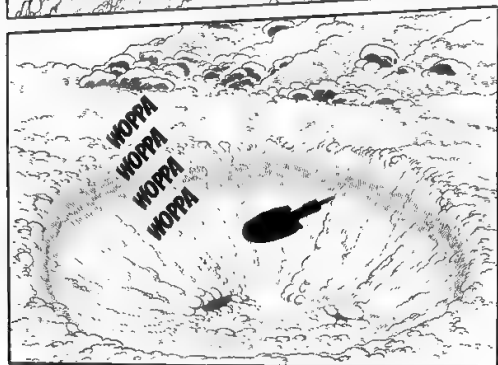
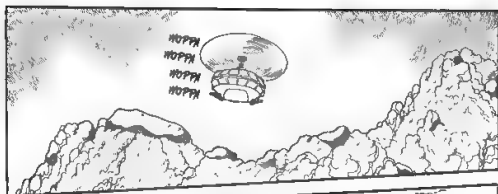


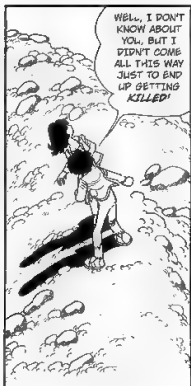
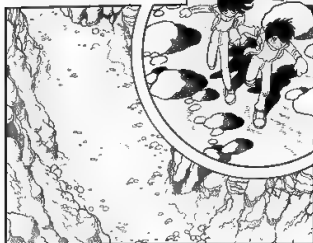


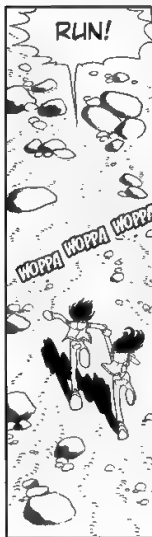


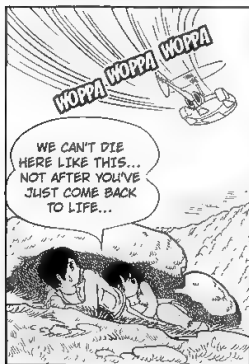












AND I
LOVE
YOU,
TOO,
SUGURU
...

THEN COME
WITH ME!
THE
ENTRANCE
TO THE
SHADOW
WORLD IS
JUST OVER
THERE!

IF WE STAY
TOGETHER,
WE'LL
BOTH BE
KILLED. .

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

COME
ON OUT,
YOU
LOVE-
BIRDS!

I'LL SEND YOU
ON A NICE
HONEYMOON.
TO ANOTHER
WORLD.. HAH!

IF WE BOTH RUN
IN DIFFERENT
DIRECTIONS,
WE MIGHT
MAKE IT

LIKAON'LL
AIM FOR ME
FIRST, AND
THAT'LL
GIVE YOU A
CHANCE...

B...BUT
THAT'S
SUICIDE!

DON'T
WORRY
SILLY I'M
NOT GOING
TO DIE

THAT WAY
WE'LL BE ABLE TO
MEET AGAIN
SOMEWHERE...

B...BUT
YOU CAN'T
GO!

Y.
YOU
CAN'T,
YODO-
ME!

LOOK, SUGURU. .
HERE'S HOW I
SEE THINGS.

I FEEL LIKE
WE WERE
CONNECTED
SOMEHOW.
IN THE PAST
THAT
SOMETHING
BROUGHT US
TOGETHER...

AND WE
WERE
DESTINED TO
MEET
AGAIN ..

